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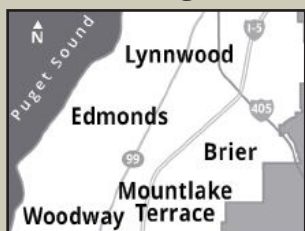
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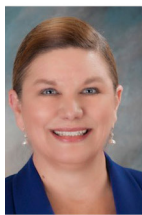
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Message From the Superintendent

Dear Edmonds School District Students, Families, Staff & Community:



Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy

It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the 2018-2019 school year! As we continue to work to prepare our students for the future, we are also working to best prepare our district for the future. We are excited to bring you an update on our strategic direction **Blueprint 2025**

in this newsletter. Your voice matters! Please participate in upcoming opportunities to provide your input.

We are also facing some big challenges with the new funding system for public education in the state of Washington. The last two legislative sessions brought significant changes in how school districts receive state revenue, as well as caps and limitations on how we can collect local revenue. All 295 school districts in our

state are impacted differently by these variables, but many will be facing significant budget shortfalls.

Here in Edmonds School District, we are projecting a shortfall of about \$18 million for the 2019-2020 school year. We are asking all members of our team to examine their budgets to look for possible areas of saving. We are using the following filters:

- Does this expenditure align with Our Commitment:

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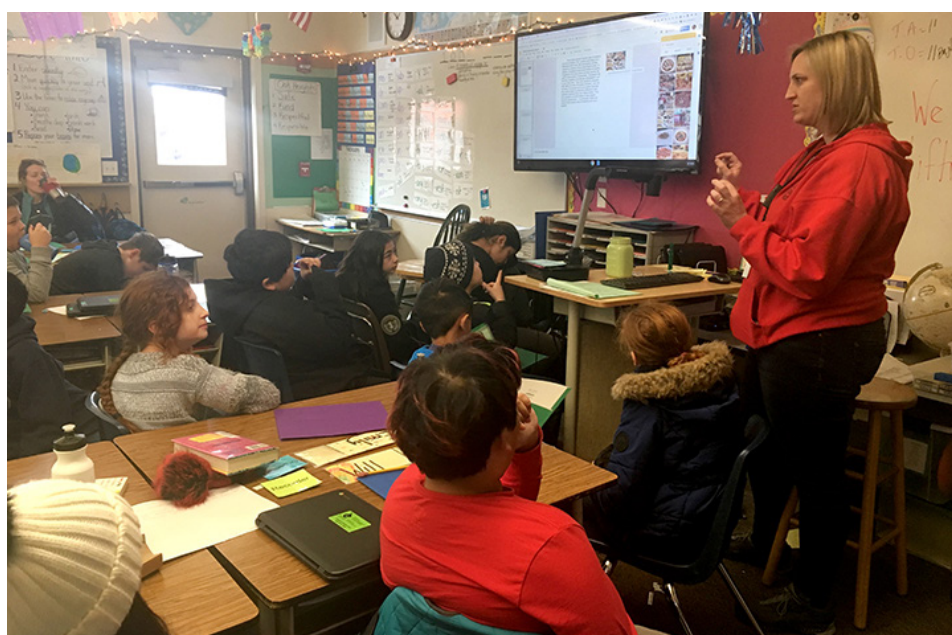
Teacher Tools: Integrating Technology in Classrooms

A closer look at how laptops in the District are helping students succeed

With the 2016 Capital Projects and Technology Levy, Edmonds School District purchased Chromebook laptops for every student in grades 2-12 and every two students in kindergarten and grade 1. In addition, each student has a Google Suite for Education account that includes email and other cloud-based computing products for writing, presentations and storage.

But how does giving students laptops help them become successful citizens of the future? The answer is in their use.

First and foremost, students are taught by world-class teachers who know how to engage each student.



Alecia Aillaud's 5th grade class at Oak Heights Elementary.

Using Google and a classroom management tool called Canvas, teachers can enhance their teaching strategies in order to

diversify lesson plans, teach to all learning styles and increase student engagement. This article profiles two teachers and

how they integrate technology tools into student learning.

See Teacher Tools, Page 2

What is the Vision for Edmonds School District?

Parents, community members, students, and staff are working together to identify values and goals for our school community as we update our strategic direction, a process we are calling **Blueprint 2025**.

With the help of a facilitator, Strategies 360, we have been seeking input on what outcomes and experiences we want for students, the overall vision for the District, and the specific goals we want to accomplish.

"I thank everyone who has given their thoughtful input so far in this process," said Dr. Kristine McDuffy, Superintendent. "We are hearing what is working well for our community, where we have challenges, and what goals we need to set for ourselves."

A steering committee, comprised of parents, students, and staff, has been guiding this work, and Strategies 360 has gathered feedback from more than 200 people in various



LEARN MORE

Visit the **Blueprint 2025** website and take the online survey: bit.ly/Blueprint2025

SAVE THE DATE

Blueprint 2025 town hall meeting on Monday, March 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Meadowdale High School.

small group meetings. Committee member Justine Locke is a certified substitute teacher who has been working in a variety of roles for Edmonds School District since 2013. "This is the first time I have witnessed our district focus on what these changes and visions will look like to parents and families,"

said Locke, "Not just how it will look to us as educators."

The District's current Strategic Direction includes four focus areas: Equity of Opportunity, Effective Learning for All Students, PreK-3rd Grade Early Learning, and Graduates Who Are Ready for Life. While those are still priorities, the update

plan will have measurable goals, with the District tracking and sharing progress over the years.

"We are beginning to answer the question: How will families be able to recognize that progress is being made? In education, that is so important," said Locke. "If families are unable to measure our progress as their students move through our schools, then how can we be held accountable for shaping our practices in a way that serves all of our families?"

There will be a communitywide meeting on Monday, March 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Meadowdale High School.

"We encourage everyone to share their feedback by attending the town hall meeting and/or filling out our online survey," said McDuffy. "The work we are doing now will shape where our district is in the year 2025, and every voice matters in this process."

Save the Date

(ESC = Educational Services Center)

Tuesday, March 12

6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting at the ESC

Wednesday-Thursday, March 13-14

Early Release - Grades K-6, Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, March 15

No School - Professional Development Day

Monday, March 18

6:30 p.m. Superintendent, the Budget and the Community at MHS Library

Thursday, March 21

6:30 p.m. Superintendent, the Budget and the Community at LHS Library

Monday, March 25

6:30 p.m. Equity Alliance for Achievement Meeting at ESC

Tuesday, March 26

6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting at the ESC

Friday, March 29

Early Release - All grades

Monday-Friday, April 1-5

Spring Break - No School

Teacher Tools

Continued From Page 1

Social Studies: Learning by Doing

"Show me that you are ready to learn, Go!" 5th grade teacher Alecia Aillaud at Oak Heights Elementary uses positive encouragement to get her students ready for learning.

Students work together, under Aillaud's direction, to write an outline to answer the question, "Why did Europeans set out to explore?" She types into a Google Slides online document that is shown on a large format display TV in front of the classroom. She pulls tongue depressors with student names from a jar, in order to call on students to contribute sentences or transition words to the paragraphs. She is continually utilizing new strategies to engage her students.

After the group lesson, each student gets out their Chromebook laptop and opens the shared Google Slides. Their assignment is to find and insert appropriate images to accompany the para-

graph and write photo captions that highlight the text. Students excitedly get to work writing, formatting pictures and discussing ideas with neighbors while Aillaud is able to give support to students one-on-one.

Google Suite for Education and Google Classroom have a "wide variety of uses, with lots of different lessons and activities and approaches to learning," Aillaud said. "It has made my teaching easier and more effective."

English: Writing a Narrative

Students break into four groups in teacher Krista Morales' 8th grade English class at Brier Terrace Middle, to "workshop" their writing assignment. First, they log in to Canvas on their Chromebook laptops. Districtwide, around 83 percent of students in grades 7-12 have one or more courses in Canvas. Student Anna Dahlam thinks it's great because Canvas is easy to use. "On my dashboard, I can see all my assignments and what's completed," she said.



Krista Morales' 8th grade class at Brier Terrace Middle.

One group of students, as part of an assignment on Canvas, listens to NPR Podcasts then writes and submits their own poems. Another group is writing narrative stories on Google Docs. Morales talks with the students about the benefits of using descriptive storytelling and the benefits to the reader. Students will submit completed stories online for review. A third group of students is busy reading independently on comfy couches and a fourth group is utilizing commas in their writing. All groups, employing different learning styles, are working through the

same lesson on narrative writing.

At the beginning of each lesson, the class is given a practice assignment and after one class day, Morales can easily review each student's understanding using a rubric in Canvas. These tools allow "lots of opportunities to differentiate, get feedback and target students that need more support," she says.

With around 90 students seen in a day, she is always looking for ways to check in with students and give extra support to some students and provide enrichment to others.

Is Moving 6th graders to Middle School an Option?

District examining if it's the best fit for our students

The numbers are clear: Edmonds School District is over capacity at the elementary level and future projections make the situation even more serious. In the spring of 2018, our Enrollment Committee made the recommendation to reconfigure the current grade structure, moving 6th grade students from elementary to middle school. It would be the best fit for over-crowding issues, but the District needs to determine if it's also the best fit for our students.

Jennifer Braille, Westgate Elementary Principal, has worked as a teacher and administrator at elementary, middle school, and junior high (7th-9th grade) levels. "Our 6th grade students are ready for the high academic expectations that are incorporated within the middle school environment."

An earlier move to middle school could give 6th grade students more access to advanced academic options as well as electives and specialized programs. "We have a large group of 6th graders from College Place Elementary who take advantage of the proximity and already utilize our school and benefit from the additional time and opportunities," said Sam Yuhan, principal at College Place Middle. "It's great to have them on our campus for band twice a week, and it would be wonderful to be able to offer them more options."

Moving 6th grade to middle



Sam Yuhan, principal at College Place Middle, says "Middle school students need to feel they belong."

school would also increase the time before the students' next transition, from middle school to high school. With a 7th and 8th grade model, half of the students are coming and half are going in any given school year. "Middle school students need to feel they belong. They need a sense of community that takes time to build," said Yuhan.

The Association for Middle Level Education, a national organization dedicated to the education of adolescents, points out that

students, ages 10-15, need educational programs that serve their unique developmental needs. That is, students at this age need educational programs that are developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering, and equitable.

"The leap between 5th and 6th grade is towards applying skills and going deeper in content areas," said Sherwood Elementary Principal, Christi Kessler. "We are working to support our 6th graders move towards this depth of knowledge and prepare them for

the rigor of middle school."

Edmonds School District will continue to examine the idea of a change to our middle school model from all angles before making a decision, and we'd like your input. Please take our online survey at bit.ly/ESD6thGrade and look for additional information and further opportunities to provide input in the future. Any potential changes would not impact the 2019-2020 middle school configurations, but would be considerations for future school years.

Message From the Superintendent

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- Equity of Opportunity,
- Effective Learning for All Students,
- PreK-3rd Grade Early Learning, and
- Graduates Who Are Ready for Life?

How does this expenditure support our core work of student learning?

What is the return-on-investment (cost/benefit) and how do we know?

You can learn more about funding changes and how we are rising to meet these

challenges at bit.ly/ESDBudget19-20.

I'd also like to invite you all to attend one of our upcoming Budget Information Sessions:

- March 18 – 6:30 p.m. – Meadowdale HS Library
- March 21 – 6:30 p.m. – Lynnwood HS Library
- April 16 – 6:30 p.m. – Edmonds Woodway HS Library
- April 18 – 6:30 p.m. – Mountlake Terrace HS Library

We are continuing to work hard to ensure that our students are getting the very best education possible! Despite the many challenges we face, there are many opportunities for us to be the best school district in the state and top tier in the nation. Together we are Building Bright Futures!

With highest regards,

Dr. Kristine McDuffy
Superintendent

Edmonds School District Board of Directors



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District 2
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McDuffy

Comprising five director districts, the Board of Directors conducts the business of the Edmonds School District. The board meets alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 20420 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood, 98036. Study sessions, at which the board does not vote on matters, are held as needed on alternate Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Madrona K-8 Opens; Great Progress with Spruce

Madrona K-8

Madrona K-8 opened for students Jan. 7. Thank you to the great team who pulled off furniture deliveries and installations, classroom setups, installation of phones, connectivity for teachers from their computers to their new classroom technology, cameras, and access control, to the cleaning crews, and to the contractors for finishing! Landscaping will be ongoing through June 2019. Teachers comment on the beauty and peacefulness of the school. Students say they love the waterfalls, bathrooms, and playground.



First concert setup in Madrona K-8's new gym.

Spruce Elementary

The contractors are making great progress. Phase 1 of Spruce is nearly "dried-in" – a definite milestone celebrating a dry school with roof on, windows in, and air barrier on the walls. The contractors have portable heating units to dry out the interior walls for application of wall finishes. Mechanical and electrical systems follow the wall construction with piping to sprinkler systems, toilet facilities, and conduit to lighting, outlets and data jacks. Planning for a summer move into the new facility has already started, along with the furniture and fixtures to outfit the new spaces.



Members of the Food & Nutrition Services team at the new kitchen at Spruce Elementary.

SMALL WORKS UPDATES

Districtwide Cameras and Access Control

Another phase of camera installations started over winter break and will continue through the end of the school year. This phase of the project will add more than 300 multi-lens cameras across the District's intermediate and secondary sites.

An additional phase of access control installations is underway at various primary education sites.

New Relocatables at CWE and EWHS

Two new relocatable classrooms were ordered and installed at Cedar Way Elementary School and one new building was installed at Edmonds-Woodway High School. These new classrooms were opened after winter break.

NEW PROJECTS COMING THIS SUMMER 2019

New Field Synthetic Turf at EWH

Edmonds-Woodway High School baseball field and tennis courts are being redesigned and scheduled for construction this summer. The project includes a new synthetic turf baseball field which will double as a practice soccer/football field, new tennis courts, replacement of the existing softball surfacing, and various improvements to track and field, natural turf areas, viewing areas, walking paths and lighting.

Synthetic Turf Replacement at LWH and at MDH

Synthetic turf and track surfacing is being replaced at most existing synthetic fields at Lynnwood High School. Existing synthetic turf is being replaced and tennis court lighting will be improved at Meadowdale High School.

Edmonds School District News provides school and education information to all the residents of Edmonds School District. For more information about the District, please call the Administration Office at (425) 431-7000 or visit www.edmonds.wednet.edu. To request this newsletter in a different format for people with disabilities please call (425) 431-7045. Board of Directors: Carin Chase, District 1 Legislative Representative; Ann McMurray, District 2 President; Gary Noble, District 3; Deborah Kilgore, District 4; Diana White, District 5 Vice President; Superintendent: Dr. Kristine McDuffy; Writing, Editing: Communication & Public Relations staff; Design: Brian Craig; Photography: District and School staff.
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Why am I getting this newsletter? This newsletter is intended to reach all residents in our District including the nearly 70 percent of households without school-age children. We use bulk mailing rather than individually addressing each newsletter because it is the least expensive way to distribute this newsletter.